

Wisdom Tree seeks repeat win in NYSS Thursday at Yonkers

- by Brandon Valvo, for the SOA of NY

Yonkers, NY --- Since making her 3-year-old debut at Hoosier Park this spring, Wisdom Tree has been nearly unstoppable. The daughter of [Betterthancheddar](#) out of the Artsplace mare Wisdom posted three straight wins in overnight competition in Indiana and at Saratoga before jumping into New York Sire Stakes. In three legs so far, she's two-for-three with another runner-up finish. The only blemish on Wisdom Tree's 2018 campaign came in her first start of the year when she made an early miscue and finished seventh.

"She's a really nice filly. She's a doll, I love her," trainer Ed Hart said. "I think she was a little immature last year. She made the odd mistake. You could never move her too fast, you always had to be a little careful with her. She definitely matured. She's a sweetheart in the stall, does everything right, just a classy horse."



Steve Roth photo

In her most recent start, Wisdom Tree posted a 4-1/4 length victory after sitting the pocket trip at Buffalo June 13.

them to me.

Jeff Cullipher co-owns Wisdom Tree with Tom Pollack and prepared the filly for her 3-year-old campaign before sending her east to Hart. Over the years, the relationship between Hart, Pollack, and Cullipher has proven fruitful.

"I started training horses for Tom Pollack. He was also an owner with Randy Bendis and Randy sent me horses from The Meadows when they came out east to race, especially for New York Sire Stakes," Hart said. "And then Tom branched out to Indiana with Jeff Cullipher and they race together. They do the same thing, when they come out east, they send

"They always send me good horses and they're good people to deal with. Jeff Cullipher developed this filly and trained her down. I just manage her out here and race her. It's really nice. Jeff has a big stable out in Indiana, he's a good guy to work with. It really is nice, it works out real well for me."

In her first start in Sire Stakes competition this year on May 27 at Saratoga, Wisdom Tree raced from off the pace as the race's 2-5 favorite Youaremycandygirl cut blistering fractions of :26.3 and :53.3. As the leader's strides began to shorten nearing three-quarters, Wisdom Tree mounted a first-over bid. She struck the lead at the top of the stretch and powered away with a :28.2 final quarter to beat Alexis Faith by a length in 1:52.2 at odds of 8-1.

"That was a pretty wild race," Hart said. "My filly did it right, she pulled going to the half and she was coming first-over and ground that one down. She raced tough as nails, you can't take anything away from her."

Wisdom Tree's victory at Saratoga showed the filly has developed a new dimension this year. In 11 starts at 2, Wisdom Tree won three races, all of which came on the front end. She frequently made breaks in stride when forced to sit in a hole. Now more mentally and physically mature, Hart thinks Wisdom Tree has outgrown her breaking issues and is much more versatile.

"Last year, when she was on the lead where you could steady her and keep her on her own pace, she was really good," Hart explained. "She was never quick to come out of the hole, you could never force her into anything. This year, you can. She can leave, she can sit, she can do it all."

Wisdom Tree proved her efforts at Saratoga were no fluke as she finished second next out, pacing a 1:50.3 mile from post eight at Tioga Downs June 3. In her most recent start, Wisdom Tree posted a 4-1/4 length victory after sitting the pocket trip at Buffalo June 13.

"I know Buffalo, I've raced there all my life and you've got to be really careful up there," Hart said. "I was happy to see her get around that track and she handled it perfectly. Kevin Cummings said she never took a bad step. And there again, she left pretty quick and sat the hole and sat there nice. That was a nice trip up there for her."

Wisdom Tree will try to score her third NYSS victory of the year Thursday night at Yonkers when she starts in the third and final division of the state bred stakes in race 11. Wisdom Tree will start from post five as the 2-1 morning line favorite and will once again face Alexis Faith, the Casie Coleman trainee who finished second in a Fan Hanover elimination at Mohawk June 9.

"I know Casie Coleman's horse on the outside of us is a tough horse, I know she's raced good in Canada. At that level, they're all good, anything can happen. Hopefully we'll get a good trip and we'll see what happens," Hart said. "I think Wisdom Tree is sharp. That Buffalo trip is tough. It's a six-hour trip each way, it's a two-day thing, but I think she's sharp. She feels good."

For complete entries for the Thursday card at Yonkers, click [here](#).